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singlet molecular oxygen

The oxygen molecule (dioxygen), O_2 , in an excited singlet state. The ground state of O_2 is a triplet ${}^3\Sigma_g^-$. The two metastable singlet states derived from the ground state configuration are ${}^1\Delta_g$ and ${}^1\Sigma_g^+$. The term singlet oxygen alone, without mention of the chemical species is

The term singlet oxygen alone, without mention of the chemical species is discouraged since it can also refer to an oxygen atom in a ¹S or ¹D excited state. While the oxygen atom ground state is a triplet ³P state, the ¹S and ¹D states are also derived from the ground state configuration.

1996, 68, 2273

IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Terminology

2nd Edition (1997)